

Sustainability Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
December 19, 2012

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Vera Ward, Kristin Schwab, Julia Sherman, Paul Shapiro, Bill Lennon, Coleen Spurlock (guest), Don Hoyle (guest), Virginia Walton (staff), Lon Hultgren (staff), Jennifer Kaufman (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 by chair Stoddard.

The October 17, 2012 meeting minutes were accepted on a motion by Stoddard/Lennon. The November 14, 2012 meeting minutes were accepted on a motion by Ward/Schwab.

The criteria for becoming a bike friendly community was circulated while Hultgren stated that he plans to begin the formal process of evaluating the Town's bike friendliness this winter. Sherman and Kaufman may be able to enlist volunteers to help with the project. Kathleen Paterson might be interested. Miller may also know of interested students. Stoddard stated that there is funding for complete streets through state law. The Public Works engineering intern will look into complete streets and funding opportunities which Hultgren will report to the committee in February.

The committee discussed the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge. Part of the pledge is to create a municipal action plan. It was suggested by Sherman that an action plan be woven into the work of Mansfield Tomorrow (HUD grant). It was pointed out that if the Town does not fulfill the pledge, there are no repercussions. On a motion by Schwab/Lennon the committee recommended that the Town make a Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge. The motion was approved, with Shapiro abstaining.

Kaufman reported that she and Painter are actively working on Mansfield Tomorrow (HUD grant) with Goodie Clancy. A formal invitation will be coming from the planning and zoning commission to invite 15 to 30 people to participate in an advisory group. Schwab expressed interest in serving as the sustainability committee liaison for this group. The advisory group will meet five to six times, with the first meeting scheduled for January 17, 2013. In addition there will be agriculture, housing, economic development and zoning focus groups that meet two to three times during the process.

Stoddard reported that because there was not a lot of time to prepare comments the water study environmental impact evaluation (EIE), the committee was not able to arrange a special meeting with a quorum. It was noted that individuals can submit comments until January 4, 2013. Ward reported on the December 11, 2012 public hearing. Town Council forwarded all the comments from the various town committees to UConn. The planning and zoning commission expressed particular concern about pipeline sprawl, finding the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) proposal the least appropriate because of distance and cost. They found the Connecticut Water Company (CDC) proposed route along Interstate 84 down Route 195 crossing the Willimantic River via a Pedestrian Bridge at the Mansfield/Coventry line, continuing on to Baxter Road (providing public

water to Goodwin Elementary School) as the least onerous of all the options. Of the Windham Water Works (WWW) proposal, Clover Mill Road was the preferred option since Chaffeeville Road could have the greatest environmental impact and Route 195 could invite the greatest potential for sprawl. Planning and Zoning noted that it is more cost effective to use local roads. The Clover Mill Road option would provide public water for the Mansfield Middle School as well as for the proposed Masonicare development. The Conservation Commission evaluated the WWW proposal as the best option. The CDC came in second with MDC a distant third. The Conservation Commission and the Four Corners Advisory Committee found the projections of water use to be high, which raised questions about intended use. The Conservation Commission noted that the EIE did not include the impact of dismantling the wells along the Willimantic and Fenton Rivers, and shared misgivings about becoming dependent upon a sole source of water. The Four Corners Advisory Committee wanted to know who would take charge of the water and questioned why there was no indication in the EIE to reclaim water. The Windham Council of Governments expressed their concern about regional development pressure with all of the proposals.

The committee revisited applying for the micro-grid grant and loan pilot program, which will be due on January 4, 2013. If there is another round of the micro-grid grant, the committee would like to consider applying. Staff will find out if there will be another opportunity to apply and if there is funding for fuel cells.

Walton reported that she reapplied for the Solarize CT Pilot, listing the Sustainability Committee as one of the partners for the pilot. Although there is no date for a car sharing and electric car charger press event, the car share program will begin as soon as Hertz, the car share vendor, issues a press release. Once the signs are posted at both charging stations (Community Center and parking garage), staff will issue a press release.

The committee reviewed the 2013 meeting schedule and accepted it on a motion by Sherman/Ward.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2013, 5:30 pm in conference room B.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton